

TRENDS IN HAEMATOLOGY. J. B. Chatterjea Memorial Volume. Edited by N. N. Sen and A. K. Basu. (Pp. 506. Illustrated. \$60.00). Calcutta : K. P. Bagchi & Co., 286 B.B. Ganguli St., Calcutta 12. For J. B. Chatterjea Memorial Committee. 1975.

THIS book is a memorial to Dr. J. B. Chatterjea who died in 1972. Dr. Chatterjea was Professor of Haematology at the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and well known to all haematologists. His bibliography of 372 references listed in the volume attests to the many significant contributions he made to the subject.

Trends in Haematology contains review articles on selected topics by distinguished authors. The 25 subjects covered are wide-ranging and embrace clinical haematology, genetics, immunology and cytochemistry. Dr. Rosemary Briggs outlines the development of the present day theory of blood coagulation, Professor Herbert gives an excellent description of folic acid and vitamin B₁₂ metabolism and Dr. Mathè and his colleagues an interesting account of the results of immunotherapy in acute lymphoid leukaemia. Other chapters deal with fibrinolysis, the porphyrias and the preservation of blood. The editors have managed to instil a distinctively Indian flavour into the book by including chapters on the effect of snake venoms on haemostasis, abnormal haemoglobins in India and an account by Dr. Beutler of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency due to a new enzyme variant in an Indian subject. Each article is well endowed with references which are given at the end of the chapter.

Although this book is certainly of value to haematologists and of interest to those studying for higher examinations it is unfortunately severely handicapped by its price. It is doubtful if many will consider it worth such a sum and its main home is likely to be in libraries.

J.H.R.

SELECTED TOPICS IN CLINICAL BACTERIOLOGY. Edited by J. de Louvois. (Pp. 262; figures 21. £6.50). London : Bailliere Tindell. 1976.

OF the eight chapters in this book only one, "Advances on Bacterial Taxonomy", seems out of context with the title. The thoroughness with which the chapters have been prepared is reflected in the fact that in 256 pages of text the reference lists occupy no less than 43 pages.

Reviews of such volumes must reflect the interest of the reviewer but without bias; thus I would suggest that the chapter "Bacteroides Infections: Diagnosis and Treatment" should be read by clinicians as well as microbiologists. Similarly "The Viridans Streptococci" contribution should stimulate even further the re-awakened interest in this largely neglected group of bacteria and the chapter "Assay of Antimicrobial Agents" should be compulsory reading for all practising clinical bacteriologists and their technical colleagues.

There are few errors (? of editing) e.g., in Table 1.2 (p. 7) where the percentage at the top of the centre column should read 75 and not 7; on p. 139 (1st line) the table reference is to p. 156 and not 126 as stated. There are several typographical errors including transpositions.

In these days of escalating book (and other) prices the volume is attractive and can be recommended.

R.R.G.